

Dr Wright showed himself to be a calm and efficient organizer and a very hard worker. He was a determined individual of noteworthy ability and competence. He felt deeply on his subject and never tired of stressing the need for a more rigorous approach in modern electro-encephalography. Of sensitive nature, he was quick to express himself when he felt that his views or his subject were being called into question.

Mike Wright's passing has shocked his many friends and colleagues, all of whom will wish to extend their deepest sympathy to his relatives in South Africa and to his wife and children at their family home in North Wales.

P. V. TOBIAS

DOUGLAS ERITH DERRY, M.C., M.B., CH.B., HON. F.R.C.S.

Prof. Derry died on 20 February 1961 at his home in Essex. He was 87 years of age.

For over 30 years he was Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cairo (Kasr-el-Aini medical school). He was appointed in 1919. This post gave him many opportunities for archaeological and anthropological observations in the Nile valley. This region was not new to him for in his early post-graduate years he had been attached to the archaeological survey of Nubia as an anatomist. Perhaps the best known fact about Prof. Derry is that he was the first anatomist to examine the mummy of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

He had an affection for the Nile valley and had planned to continue living in his Cairo flat after his retirement. But the political upheaval in Egypt at the end of 1951 necessitated his departure early in 1952 as it did that of all holders of British passports attached to Egyptian universities. During his tenure of the Cairo chair he was an outstanding figure in Egypt and acted as host to most of the distinguished scientific visitors from this country.

As Professor of Anatomy he was a patient and painstaking teacher. As an examiner he was very systematic and thorough and no student would have dared to 'coax' him to change his verdict. To a colleague meeting him at the end of his career the general impression was that of his courage and precision. The burden of a chair in a medical school admitting over a thousand students a year can be imagined. One of his pupils, Prof. El-Batrawi, succeeded him in the Kasr-el-Aini chair, and that is what he would have wished. Another of his pupils, Prof. Aasar, became the first Professor of Anatomy in the University of Alexandria, and yet another, Prof. Shafik Abd-el-Malek, filled the anatomy chair at the Abassia medical school in Cairo.

All through the First World War Derry served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross. Before the outbreak of war he had been working at University College, London as lecturer in Physical Anthropology in the Anatomy Department when Prof. Thane held the chair. During this period he worked also in Prof. Karl Pearson's department (Biometrics) where he carried out extensive researches on the bones of the human skeleton in conjunction with members of Karl Pearson's staff. The results of vast numbers of measurements were used in sexing the bones found in one of the London plague pits of the 1665 outbreak. Karl Pearson always remained a firm friend.

It is to be regretted that Derry published no autobiographical account of his years in Egypt. When Francis Bacon in his *New Atlantis* urged that travelling scholars should go from these islands to distant lands carrying stores of knowledge and technical skills from this country, he also advocated their return with stores of experience from the countries they had visited to be shared with their fellow scientists here. Much of such experience is not suitable for publication in scientific journals and so is lost to succeeding generations.

U. FIELDING